

York 19/8 mo 1872

Dear Dr. Gray

I am delighted with the
4 Ferns, kindly forwarded from the
Botanic Garden at Cambridge.

The only pity was that they were
not wrapped in thin Gutta Serena

& consequently arrived so exceedingly
dry that I fear best life should
be quite extinct. I have at once

sent ^{by "Sample Post"} 2 square yards of the thin
Gutta Serena to Mr. Watson at the

Botanic Gardens, in case any
thing else of the kind should ^{require to} be
forwarded by post. I also send

to ^{Dr. Parry} ~~the same~~ direct ~~(as mentioned above)~~
2 more square yards of the same ^{by "Sample Post"}.

For all plants like Ferns it is
excellent, but they should be put
in dry - i - e, not at all visibly damp.

I suppose the 3 fellows will grow on sunny (limestone?) rocks in rather dry crevices? & are likely to bear our winter frosts.

I do not know whether Dr. Parry will be able to obtain more plants of these *Feruss*, but it is very desirable to do so if possible, for they would be valuable acquisitions if we could import them alive.

He sowed the spores & the dust which was in their papers instantly.

The Sedum & Echeveria were alive. They did not require any gutta percha wrapping, indeed would have been probably injured by it. The roots of Sax. peltata also are safely to hand in good condition. Many thanks for them, as for the *Feruss* &c.

I think that ^{small} plants might be sent direct by post in thin gutta percha, with paper wrapper outside.

I have had them so packed from New Granada &c. Dried fronds with good spores would probably enable us to raise seedlings: but there is a great gain in time if a few living roots can be imported also.

Believe me to remain
Very sincerely & respectfully
Yours
W Backhouse